

Asian Longhorned Beetle Infestation in Central Massachusetts Prompts Special Handling of Woody Debris Generated by New England Storms

Downed trees, tree limbs, branches and other woody debris generated by recent rain and ice storms within Massachusetts's 63-square mile Asian longhorned beetle (ALB) regulated area must be handled in keeping with federal and state rules that protect against the spread of the damaging invasive insect.

Individuals, businesses and municipalities working with trees, nursery stock, cut wood, timber, woody debris, downed tree limbs, or firewood can help save trees by following these rules while addressing the storm damage that lies within the ALB regulated area in Massachusetts.

- Any companies or individuals working on tree-related storm damage within the ALB regulated area **must** be under a compliance agreement with the Massachusetts Asian Longhorned Beetle Cooperative Eradication Program. No company or individual without a compliance agreement should handle wood material within the regulated area.
- Homeowners within the regulated area should ensure that a business hired to address storm damaged trees is under compliance with the ALB Cooperative Eradication Program and has therefore been trained on how to handle potentially infested material.
- Within the Massachusetts ALB regulated area, wood is a regulated article and cannot move outside of the regulated area unless it is chipped to a size no greater than one-inch in two dimensions.
- The Ararat Street Wood Disposal site in Worcester will remain open through Sunday December 14, 2008 from 8 am until 8 pm. for use by compliance agreement holders. The Ararat Street site will be open from 8 am until 5 pm each day the week of December 15th, to accept woody debris resulting from the storm. The site will accept wood from all tree species.
- Homeowners in the ALB regulated area that would prefer to burn fallen woody debris in their homes may certainly do so. However, the downed limbs and branches should not be transported out of the regulated area by individuals for use at other locations.
- Any company, homeowner, individual or citizen that sees woody debris showing signs of Asian longhorned beetle infestation should report its location to the ALB Program at 508-799-8330 or 1-866-702-9938. Do not move the material if it shows signs of infestation. Signs of infestation include perfectly round exit holes of 3/8 inch in diameter, signs of larval tunneling inside branches or limbs or even ALB larvae or pupae that may have become visible within broken branches and limbs.

The Massachusetts ALB Cooperative Eradication Program has scheduled additional compliance training sessions for area businesses and individuals to facilitate storm damage clean up. They will be held on Monday, December 15 at 9:00 am and 5:00 pm, and on Tuesday, December 16 at 5 pm. The ALB Program routinely schedules compliance training sessions on Wednesdays at 5 pm. The sessions will be held at 50 Skyline Drive, Worcester in Meeting Room A. Please call 508-799-8330 to schedule a session.

Federal and State laws that establish regulated areas around ALB infestations also outline the conditions and requirements for moving regulated articles out of or within the area. The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation issued the Massachusetts quarantine order in compliance with sections 8, 11, and 12 of Chapter 132 and section 1F of Chapter 132A of the Massachusetts General Laws.

In Massachusetts, regulated materials include firewood of all hardwood species, and green lumber and other material living, dead, cut or fallen inclusive of nursery stock, logs, stumps, roots, branches and debris of a half-inch or more in diameter of all ALB host tree species listed previously; and also the Asian longhorned beetle, its larvae or eggs.

ALB host trees include all species of the following genera: maple, elm, willow, birch, horsechestnut, London planetree, poplar, ash, mimosa (silktree), hackberry, and mountain ash.

The ALB is an invasive pest that arrived in the United States from Asia concealed in solid wood packing material—the pallets and crates used to transport goods from overseas. The ALB infests and kills many species of hardwoods, making it a serious threat to forest and urban trees alike. If the pest were to move into the forested areas of the United States the maple syrup and forestry products industries would be significantly impacted, as would tourism.

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